

May 2014



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## Grafton County, NH FSA Updates

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#### Grafton County FSA Office

19 Archertown Rd Ste 1  
Orford, NH 03777

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

Phone: 603-353-4650  
Fax: 603-353-4647

**County Executive Director:**  
Steven Schmidt  
[steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov](mailto:steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov)

**Program Technicians:**  
Tara Hamlett  
[tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov](mailto:tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov)

Joanne Fullerton  
[joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov](mailto:joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov)

**County Committee Members:**  
David Clement

### GovDelivery Customers Are Not Impacted By The HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

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### 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Grafton County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Grafton County:  
May 31, 2014: Ornamental Nursery

Shirley Tullar  
Russell Keniston

**Next County Committee Meeting:** May 21, 2014 at 11:00 am

**NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Kuper  
[brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov](mailto:brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov)

**Farm Loan Team:**  
The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St - Box 212  
Concord, NH 03301-5081

July 15, 2014: Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops  
November 15, 2014 2015 Perennial Forage, 2014 Fall Forage Seeding, 2014 Fall Seeded Small Grains

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Grafton County FSA office at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

## Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Underway

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Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

- LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess

of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the Farm Bill webpage at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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## Loans For The Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## USDA Sets Date For Soybean Request For Referendum

USDA will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act.

Soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the Soybean Checkoff Program are invited to participate. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2013.

Producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from FSA county offices starting on May 5, 2014 through May 30, 2014. Forms are also available on the AMS website. Producers who don't participate in FSA programs can still request a referendum at the FSA county office where they own or rent land.

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate FSA county office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 30, 2014. If returned by mail, it must be postmarked by midnight May 30, 2014, and received in the office by close of business on June 5, 2014.

Notice of the Request for Referendum will be published in the March 4, 2014, Federal Register. For more information, visit the AMS website or contact James Brow, Research and Promotions Branch; Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2610-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-0633.

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## Selected Interest Rates for May 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.125%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.0%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Joint Financing - 2.50%  
Emergency Loans - 3.125%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.25%

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## Dates to Remember

May 21, 2014 - COC Meeting 11:00 am  
May 26, 2014 - Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday  
May 30, 2014 - Last day to make production start month changes for MILC  
June 15, 2014 - COC Election Nomination Period Begins for LAA 1  
**Acreage Reporting Deadlines**  
June 2, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery  
July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding , and All Other Crops

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).